for reading at the next meeting, which will contain his opinions on the design and perspective in scenery, with remarks on costume and stage properties.

BUILDING NEAR DANGEROUS MANUFACTORIES.

INFORMATION UNDER THE METROPOLITAN BUILDINGS' ACT.

A short time since an information was promoted by Mr. Boulanger, a Frenchman, for many years carrying on the business of a japanner, and the inventor of the Angola hats, in some isolated premises at the rear of the Bermondsey New-road, against Mr. Sugden, builder, under the provisions of the Metropolitan Buildings' Act.

A Court of Official Referees was appointed, when it appeared that Mr. Sugden had thought fit to form a new street in the vicinity of Mr. Boulanger's premises, leaving but 10 feet space between the new houses and the japanning premises, the Act requiring that no alley shall be constructed less than 20 feet wide, no street less than 40, or if near any premises where danger is to be apprehended, not to be less than 50 feet wide. The builder on the 31st of December, 1844 (the day before the Metropolitan Buildings Act came into operation) completed the foundations of the four houses at the extreme corners of the proposed street, thereby thinking he had secured himself against its provision, the intermediate space being perfectly clear, but afterwards finding that if he continued the houses in this line he should nearly build up to Mr. Boulanger's premises, leaving him scarcely any space whatever, he felt himself compelled to take up the foundations laid on the 31st of December, and remove them further back, so that a small passage might be left between the new houses and Mr. Boulanger's premises. In this manner sixteen houses were built, the builder pulling down part of Mr. Boulanger's fence, where it interrupted his progress, and raising the roadway three feet, so that all the surface water drained into Mr. Boulanger's ground, and converted his garden into a laystall. These facts were sworn to in evidence, the builder setting up as a defence, that the land was private property. The Official Referees said they would consider their award, and the Court was then adjourned. They have now returned the same, which is in effect as follows:—

That the approach to the houses and buildings of Mr. C. T. Boulanger can be used as a footway only, and that such place is an alley within the meaning of the Act; that such alley is of a less width than 20 feet, and is not in conformity with the provisions of the Metropolitan Buildings Act, and that seven houses have been commenced since January 1, 1845. That the business of a japan hat-manufacturer is of a dangerous nature, from the inflammability of the materials used, and their liability to sudden explosion; and as Mr. Sugden has since the Act came into operation erected certain houses within the distance of 50 feet from the said buildings of Mr. Boulanger, all and every such houses within the distance aforesaid, are built contrary to the provisions of the said Act.

In consequence of the above decision, Mr. Boulanger sought to give it effect under the 55th clause of the Act, by which a magistrate is empowered, on hearing the facts, to impose penalties not exceeding 50*l.* for every day during which such building shall so remain near to such dangerous building.

On Thursday the 15th the case was taken before Mr. Secker, the presiding magistrate at Southwark Police Office, Mr. Ballantine appearing for Mr. Boulanger; and Mr. Ogle for Mr. Sugden. Mr. Ballantine stated the above facts, and put in the award of the official referees on the question. He then called in support of the same Mr. Hudson, surveyor to the West of England Insurance; Mr. H. Hobbs, a manufacturing chemist; and Mr. Wilson, foreman to Mr. Boulanger, who deposed to the dangerous nature of Mr. Boulanger's business.

Mr. Ogle, at great length, contended Mr. Sugden did not come under the operation of the Act in the present case, and also cross-examined the witnesses.

The magistrate (Mr. Secker) was of opinion that Mr. Sugden did come within the operation of the Act, and that the business of Mr. Boulanger was of the dangerous nature provided for by the 55th section. He would reserve his opinion on the question of penalties for a week, to give the parties an opportunity to come to any arrangement they might think fit in the meantime.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

The new Guildhall at Bristol has narrowly escaped the fate that so recently impended over its metropolitan associate. Though regarded as fire-proof, it is said to have narrowly escaped destruction by fire on Tuesday week, when a fire in an open grate was found to have so overheated the bricks, forming the back of the chimney, that some woodwork behind these was fired, and the new county court-room was filled with smoke, the smell of which revealed the danger just in time to prevent the flooring, which was partly burnt, from blazing into the means of destroying the whole building. The overheating of a flue beneath one of the floors some time ago occasioned serious alarm, though fortunately observed just in time to prevent a like fatal result. —— The Bristol Council Committee on Baths and Washhouses, have been conferring with Mr. Baly, who, as observed by the *Bristol Times*, has had considerable experience "in this department of engineering," having already erected two sets of the metropolitan public baths and washhouses, and being now engaged on one of large extent in Worcester. It is proposed to have forty or fifty enamelled cast-iron baths, to be let at 2d. to 6d. each. The washing apartments will be worked at the rate of 1d. an hour. The cost is estimated at 6,000*l.*, to be raised by loan, repayable by instalments. The Rope-walk near the Weir is proposed as a site for the new buildings.—— St. John's Hospital, Winchester, is about to be enlarged. St. Thomas's Church there, the construction and management of which has been much objected to by the local papers, on account of that common "crying evil," injustice to architects, and on account of other alleged "misconduct," in circumstances, with the merits or demerits of which we are unacquainted, was consecrated on Friday last. No spire, however, has been yet erected.—— Trinity Church, Southampton, after being enlarged and altered from the Græco Egyptian to the Anglo-Norman style, was reconsecrated on Thursday week. The church of St. Lawrence, at present under repair, is to be reopened on the 25th instant. The new Custom-house is to be finished, according to contract, from the designs of Mr. Giles, the architect, by the 15th of June next. Mr. Docwra, it seems, has strongly recommended the continuance of the boring—on the Chinese plan, as at first, we presume—but "with new rods of greater strength" than the "improved British;" and, if possible, to be henceforth worked by a small steam-engine. Mr. Mainwaring, however, has been "requested to prepare a report on the Chinese system of boring, and whether he would advise its continuance [or rather resumption] at the artesian well, or the boring with rods [which lately gave way while used as a substitute for the hempen Chinese ropes]; and whether he was prepared to undertake the superintendence by either mode." Mr. Docwra had offered his services gratuitously, under payment of his travelling and other expenses, until the successful completion of the work, when the commissioners might award him such remuneration as they pleased. The surveying officers, having reported in some respects, it is thought, unjustly towards the new "Consumers Gas Company," the promoters of that company have printed a statement in reply, from which, it appears, that without hearing both sides of the question, they had formed an opinion that the basis of the estimates on which the increased consumption of gas had been contemplated was erroneous; whereas instead of Southampton being in a state of stagnation, as the surveyors seem to have implied or believed, it has been proved that the rate of progression in the demand for gas has increased upwards of 66 per cent. In three years in the face of the check of high cost which more especially prevailed until the new project began to exert its justifying influence on the old; and the continuance of the progression in a still more accelerated ratio, demonstrates the wrong that would be done to the interests of the town were a monopoly allowed on calculations scarcely made before they are outstripped and cease to be applicable. The fact of two-thirds of the gas consumers having petitioned in favour of the new company too, was passed over in silence by the surveyors, who are thought to have thus and otherwise greatly impaired the authority of their report.——Sandown church, recently rebuilt, was to be consecrated on Saturday last. ——The Cambridge Improvement Commissioners are to be applied to by Mr. H. S. Foster, on the subject of a map of the city drains.——The demand for granite at Cambridge, is said to be now so great, in consequence of taking up the wood pavement in London, that its present price is 30*s.* a ton instead of 18*s.* —— In consequence of the neglect of the gas rate collector at Halstead, in one instance, to affix the proper notice to the doors of *all* the churches and chapels, as required by the Act, the rate has been resisted by some of the 'illuminati,' whose love of the darkness rather than the light appears to have blazed out afresh, so soon as the combustible material of their pockets was touched by the rate collectors; and the rate has been held to be invalid, and the summons to enforce payment therefore dismissed.——The Queen Dowager has contributed towards the fund for restoring the interior of the parish church of St. Neots. ——A suite of papier maché boudoir furniture, of great splendour and elegance, it is said, has just been completed by Messrs. Jenners and Bettridge, of Birmingham, for the young Queen of Spain. It consists of eighteen reclining chairs, a sofa, the largest ever made in this material, sofa-table, light ornamented tables, conversation chairs, and ottomans. The ornaments are chiefly of burnished gold and mother of pearl, in the ornate style of Louis the Fourteenth, with groups of birds, fountains, and festoons.—— The foundation-stone of the Leamington Proprietary College was laid on Wednesday week, by Dr. Jephson.——A drawing of the proposed new corn exchange, to be erected in the present Corn-market, at Worcester, is described in the local *Journal*. The perspective view presents a frontage of about 76 feet, having an open arcade, with gallery above, the same depth as the present covered foot pavement. The front is divided into two stories, each having seven semi-circular-headed arched openings, the lower decorated by the Doric, and the upper by the Ionic order of Italian architecture, and each surmounted by a balustrade. The interior dimensions are 50 feet wide, 76 feet long, and 40 feet high. The irregular shape of the ground is counteracted by disposing iron columns, to form with the walls a regular polygon of twelve sides; the roof also following the same outline. The building is intended to be lighted by a central lantern and twelve skylights. The design is by Mr. Henry Day, architect, of Worcester.—— The new school house at Martley, Worcestershire, founded by Lady Ward in March 1846, is now complete. It is in the Pointed style; cost 1,300*l.*——Amongst the numerous buildings now or lately in progress in Dudley, are the national schools built from designs by Mr. Bourne, of Dudley, the architect; the Freebodies school now in progress; the large Scottish church also in course of erection; the new jail, now nearly complete; and the new town-hall adjoining the jail, to be ready for use in a few months. Two cemetries are also in course of enclosure, and, altogether, says the Worcester *Journal*, the 'town is being wonderfully improved.' The Middle-row, High-street, is to be pulled down (a spirited example to High Holborn), opening up to the eye, through a much-improved street, the view of a very spacious market-place.——A lunatic asylum is about to be built for the counties of Monmouth and Hereford —— The parish church of Marnham, twelve miles from Newark, has been restored at the cost of about 1,000*l.*, under the direction of Mr. Browning, of Stamford.——A brickmaker at Wolverhampton, has been fined in the mitigated penalty of 42*l.* for having removed some bricks for the purpose of defrauding the revenue. ——The Sheffield Museum of Art Committee have reported to the Council their recommendation to select a site, and obtain the requisite plans and estimates, under the

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